

# WHAT Is Said About HIM

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*Stéphane de Gérando*

Composer · Multimedia Artist · Researcher

“

*...his works, carried by a breath as poetic as it is philosophical, reach for infinity.*

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**Pierre Gervasoni**

Journal Le Monde, July 31, 2023

*Media · Press · Publications  
Artists · Researchers · Audience*

“

*There are composers who could not conceive of music within the limited frame of a concert hall. Stéphane de Gérando, born in 1965, is one of them, and his works, carried by a breath as poetic as it is philosophical, reach for infinity. From noon to 11 p.m., music created and controlled in real time by the composer's own algorithms will be broadcast outdoors — contemporary music in immersive creation on a cliff in Finistère.”*

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**Pierre Gervasoni**

Journal Le Monde, July 31, 2023, premiere of Fine-terre

“*He is among those composers who know how to connect research on sound and artistic practice to seek a new way of conducting musical time through a multimedia approach — instruments, electronics, algorithms...”*

— **Christophe Dilys**

*France Musique, Radio-France, August 2, 2023*

“*We dive into the electroacoustic universe with composer Stéphane de Gérando, who has conceived a vast cycle — the Labyrinthe du temps — a great visual work, an entire installation, a monumental piece...”*

— **Arnaud Merlin**

*France Musique, Radio-France, October 12, 2023*

## Paul Méfano

01

Composer, conductor  
Founder of Ensemble 2e2m, CNSMDP

“The research and compositional work of Stéphane de Gérando represents an attempt to unify the whole. Gérando combines the telluric force of a Varèse with the meticulous and objective rigor of Pierre Boulez, recapturing the essence of a powerful breath. One finds therein a diversity, an originality, and a unifying harmony.”

## Jean-Yves Bosseur

02

Composer  
Research Director, CNRS

“The dual approach of researcher and composer in Gérando’s work combines in an undeniably fruitful manner — a fundamental challenge that Stéphane de Gérando fully embraces, both in his thinking and in his practice.”

## Alain Bancquart

03

Composer, professor at CNSMDP  
Dir. Orchestre National de France

“Stéphane de Gérando is probably one of the most gifted young composers I know... a highly personal imagination, whose boldness and perspicacity are strikingly interesting. Each of his scores reveals great talent, a true power of conception.”

## Costin Miereanu

Composer · Professor of Philosophy, Aesthetics and Sciences of Art  
Université Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne

“ A monumental work, original research of a high musical and scientific level, a different perspective — conceptually three-dimensional and topological in its approach to composition and musical reception — important milestones toward the establishment of a poetics of creation.”

## Jean-Pierre Armengaud

Pianist · Former Artistic Director, Festival Présences Radio-France  
Professor, Université d'Évry-Val d'Essonne

“ A titanic undertaking, a surreal thought, a volcanic model, a creative energy with the will always pushed further beyond limits... Stéphane de Gérando adds a distance, a questioning, a haunting self-examination — in short, an almost ontological doubt.”

IRAN 2018–2020 · French Embassy · Azadi Tower

“Successful projection onto the Azadi Tower, achieved with the support of the French Embassy in Iran. The visual and sound projection by French artist Stéphane de Gérando took place on July 19, 2018, after nightfall, in the presence of the Mayor of Tehran’s 9th district... All were able to admire the interplay of light and sound, during which France was honored.”

Official publication of the French Embassy in Iran

January 7, 2020



TV reports during the projection on the Azadi Tower (5 ha, 45 m) · National and international press covers

## Arash Khalili

*Revue de Téhéran, n° 154*

“One of the trajectories of the Labyrinthe tends toward an attempt to unify the whole — the search for a metalanguage capable of unifying the writing of the senses and artistic practices.”

## Bruno Giner

*Musique contemporaine, Durand*

“Stéphane de Gérando belongs to a new generation of composers marked by prolific, intense activity.”

## ResMusica · Festival Présences 2023

“ *Lycromorphie (2015/2022) by Stéphane de Gérando immediately gives the impression of having boarded a moving train that one will not leave until the last note is heard. It is a chase between the violin, the cello, and the piano... There is something relentless about this beautifully whirling mechanism. Synchronized or not, the timbres of the three instruments always combine with great felicity.* ”

Patrick Jézéquel

## Art & Décoration n°436

“ *An original concept, a hybrid work where image, sound and technology converge.* ”

Christy Granja

## Écran plan magazine n°8

“ *A union between art and high tech.* ”

Clément Pétreault

## Les années laser n°134

“ *Works displayed on a flat screen hung on the wall like a virtual painting in constant motion.* ”

F. Bliss de la Boissière

## Tutto Digitale n°45

“ *The creation of virtual paintings — the artwork no longer static, metamorphosing itself.* ”

Giorgia Vaccari

## NEWSPAPERS

Le Télégramme, August 2023 — "A monumental work... the ruins of the Saint-Mathieu abbey inhabited by contemporary creation."

Est Républicain, 2018 — "An audience of all ages interacting in real time with the work via remote gestural or sound control."

## Damien Michel

1

*French pianist*

“ Purity. Journey. Finesse. — This music represents a vertical abyss of quietude and universal peace. It is with a quiet force that Stéphane de Gérando carries us into his Labyrinthe — rather, our own labyrinth. Space in all its immensity is offered to us in great draughts, as enigmatic as they are self-evident.”

## Karan Salajegheh

2

*Iranian composer*

“ There is a coexistence between the cosmos and grains of space-time from which this cosmos is an enlargement. Here we lose a purely chronological reading of events, like our life images that encompass the projection and reflection of memory at every moment of existence.”

## Kaori Tsutsui

3

*Japanese composer*

“ This monumental work is in perpetual change, development and evolution. As soon as I touch the sound of Verticale Mémoire, I am caught — I travel through time and space, I descend into the Labyrinthe...”

“One senses a coherence that runs through both the whole work and each independent piece... Voices combine with technological fluidity, diverse emotions and sensitivity... listening, feeling, perceiving until progressively discovering the ideas, the messages... Setting off to discover a musical journey, imagining...”

— **Ling Chen Lylia Fang**

*Taiwanese flutist*

“The work *Verticale mémoire* represents both a continuation of the 20th–21st century traditions with pioneering creators such as Varèse, Stockhausen, Boulez, Bancquart, and a new approach to creation, visceral and rich... The pluridisciplinary nature of the *Labyrinthe du temps* also holds pedagogical value, serving as an example of an integral approach to the arts. *Verticale mémoire* is a curious and beautiful work to discover.”

— **Liburn Jupolli**

*Albanian composer and researcher from Kosovo*

## Festival 3icar · Cercle de la sphère · Paris, December 6, 2012

“ This work engages with the inner life of each person, their lived experience — there is a re-creation of the listener through everything they have lived, everything they have suffered, a dissolution of the self...”

“ These round units were like words, they bounced together, like phrases or cells assembling themselves...”

“ It was completely extraordinary... I am still completely overwhelmed by this quest for meaning, for significance.”

## Labyrinthe du temps · Dance, image & sound · Belfort, June 6, 2018

“ I felt an intellectual stimulation... The fact that the work is unique means we are witnessing something that will never happen again!”

“ It is a machine that created this, not man — man created the machine, then the machine... and then, where do we go?”

“ We are in three things at once — the music, the dance, the image... one must truly connect.”

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*bent in the instant  
cosmic night as sole  
hollow hue closes  
cracks spreadeagled breath fades  
wavers at the lips of your voice  
void  
without reason  
infinite face of the outstretching gesture  
Verticale mémoire*

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Excerpt from Vertical Memory

## STÉPHANE DE GÉRANDO

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